From: Hoff, Dale [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7869A2D513614599A4B29144C3442D24-HOFF, DALE]
Sent: 1/4/2023 7:19:38 PM
To: Kilburn, Curtis [Kilburn.Curtis@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Middleware/software backups

No worries. Tom is out today as well so he won't be checking in with OSIM folks today either.

From: Kilburn, Curtis <Kilburn.Curtis@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 4, 2023 8:51 AM
To: Adkins, Norman <adkins.norman@epa.gov>; Hoff, Dale <Hoff.Dale@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Middleware/software backups

Gentlemen

Mark has some medical appointments today so I may not get a chance to discuss with him until tomorrow.

Curt

From: Adkins, Norman <adkins.norman@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 4, 2023 9:41 AM
To: Hoff, Dale <Hoff.Dale@epa.gov>
Cc: Kilburn, Curtis <Kilburn.Curtis@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Middleware/software backups

Hi Dale,

I think we may need input from the team on this. For now, here is my perspective on the databases...

As I understand it, there are two aspects to the backups. There is the image and the data. Having a standard image that can be used is not a backup of the image, in my opinion. We should have the ability to restore the image as it was before it went down. This includes the applications installed on the server and the settings/configurations in place specific to that server.

With regard to the data, I would split this into two categories. There is the standard file directories and the databases. I believe the DBA should handle the backup of the databases and has been doing so. They need to be backed up in a certain way for recovery purposes, whether it be a single schema or several at once. In at least one case, they have to be done through the database management system. We do this now for production and research, but not dev and stg per prior direction. I think we need to change that where we back up all database instances. I think us continuing to handle this aspect makes the negotiation with OSIM and what they would need to take on a lot less complicated as the most storage intensive backups would likely be the databases.

With regard to the standard file directories, I would defer to Mark on this. I know we have scripts and other ode that would need to be backed up by someone. The code should reside in git repositories and frequently pushed, but Mark would likely know any of the nuances and what else we currently back up ourselves (beyond the databases).

For context, these are the primary servers we use to manage our data infrastructure, but there are others that are shared environments.

1. v2626umcth033.rtord.epa.gov (MongoDB Research - Physical)
2. v2626umcth043.rtord.epa.gov (Database Node in the Production Cluster)
3. v2626umcth044.rtord.epa.gov (Database Node in the Production Cluster and Bingo Cartridge Prod)
4. v2626umcth045.rtord.epa.gov (Database Node in the Production Cluster)
5. v2626umcth810.rtord.epa.gov (MySQL Research)
6. v2626umcth811.rtord.epa.gov (MongoDB Development and Postgres Development)
7. v2626umcth812.rtord.epa.gov (MySQL Internal Production)
8. v2626umcth813.rtord.epa.gov (MySQL Research - Virtual)
9. v2626umcth815.rtord.epa.gov (MongoDB Research and Bingo Cartridge Test/Development)
10. v2626umcth816.rtord.epa.gov (MySQL Stage, Postgres Stage, and MongoDB Stage)
11. v2626umcth818.rtord.epa.gov (Pentaho Prod)
12. v2626umcth827.rtord.epa.gov (Pentaho Test/Dev)
13. v2626umcth835.rtord.epa.gov (High Availability Proxy for databases and MongoDB Ops Manager)
14. v2626umcth836.rtord.epa.gov (High Availability Proxy for databases and MongoDB Ops Manager)
15. v2626umcth837.rtord.epa.gov (High Availability Proxy for databases and MongoDB Ops Manager)

Norman Adkins, CGFM, PMP
Chief, Data Management and Mining Branch
Office of Research and Development
Center for Computational Toxicology and Exposure
Office: (919) 541-0479
Cell: [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]

On Jan 4, 2023, at 8:34 AM, Hoff, Dale <Hoff.Dale@epa.gov> wrote:

Well, as we discussed yesterday morning, Tom agreed that there is universal agreement that the backups should be done so no hurdle on that front. His questions were: 1.) is there backups on any of the CCTE servers; and 2.) if so, are we doing it or OSIM. I guess a third then would be who should do it. I guess Tom argued that OSIM should have done it before 43 was taken down but it fell on deaf ears.

Dale Hoff, Ph.D.
Acting Director, Scientific Computing and Data Curation Division
Center for Computational Toxicology and Exposure
Office of Research and Development.

Office: 218-529-5011
Cell: [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Hoff.dale@epa.gov

On Jan 4, 2023, at 7:02 AM, Kilburn, Curtis <Kilburn.Curtis@epa.gov> wrote:

Dale

I agree with you that trying to find what was agreed to in the past is not productive.

We should use this as a learning experience and get the process for the future as quickly as possible. This must be done with sense of urgency because there is a major exposure.

Let me know when we can discuss next steps. Also I need to slow Mark down on developing a solution internal to SCDCD.

Curt

From: Hoff, Dale <Hoff.Dale@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 3, 2023 5:29 PM
To: Kilburn, Curtis <Kilburn.Curtis@epa.gov>; Adkins, Norman <adkins.norman@epa.gov>
Subject: Middleware/software backups

Sooooo,

I just called Scheitlin and had a long discussion about who was doing what in terms of backing up the middleware/software etc on servers and what OSIM was and wasn't responsible for completing. I explained to him the challenges we were having in now having to rebuild server TH043 after OSIM finished. He is going to talk with Jon Richardson and Elroy Seegars who are apparently the Deputy director and director respectively over the TOCOR (Craig Hammel) who runs the UNIX contract support doing all that work about a path forward. Tom was aware of some sort of an agreement that Amar had brokered with Craig on who was going to be doing those middleware/software backups but didn't what the details of the agreement were. He suspects that they had differing opinions, resolution was never completed and each thought the other was responsible. OSIM by practice does the back up for all of the other servers.

Personally, I don't think it is very fruitful to try and figure out what the old agreement was if there ever really was one. The main thing is that certainly it sounds like everyone will easily agree with the fact it needs to be done. He is going to talk with Jon and Elroy and get back to me. I also think we will end up getting together with them so we should try and get together and get our ducks in a row before that conversation. Tom asked some questions I couldn't answer that I will need your help on.

Dale